



March 22, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Majority Leader  
H-329, The Capitol  
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Steve Scalise  
Majority Whip  
H-329, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Speaker Ryan, Leader McCarthy, Whip Scalise:

On behalf of our members nationwide, Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee (CWALAC) wishes to express our gratitude for your leadership in ensuring that H.R. 1628, the American Health Care Act (AHCA), includes explicit language that protects life. The current version of the AHCA reinforces the fact that abortion is not health care by prohibiting tax-credit-eligible plans from covering elective abortion. Furthermore, the AHCA redirects Federal Medicaid reimbursement from Planned Parenthood to Federally Qualified Health Centers, which outnumber Planned Parenthoods almost 20-1.<sup>1</sup>

The current language of the AHCA will allow individuals who do not have access to employer-based coverage or qualify for government insurance to receive an advanceable tax credit that may be used to purchase insurance on the individual exchange. This credit cannot be used to purchase any plan that covers elective abortion and cannot be used to subsidize elective abortion. The current House language is consistent with the vast majority of Americans, including pro-choice Americans, who believe taxpayer dollars should not fund abortions.<sup>2</sup>

We applaud and support the efforts of both the House and the Trump Administration to ensure the AHCA includes explicit Hyde protection language that prohibits taxpayer dollars in any form from funding abortion. If these protections are removed or weakened in any future versions of this bill, CWALAC will actively work to oppose these versions. Executive action is not an acceptable substitute for statutory language that protects life. As we have seen with the Obama Administration's enforcement of ObamaCare, without these explicit protections, abortion coverage is assumed. The most pro-life Congress in recent memory cannot replace ObamaCare with a plan that covers or incentivizes abortion.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://lozierinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/NATIONAL\\_PAGE1\\_cli-adf\\_pp\\_map\\_us\\_sept.jpg](https://lozierinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/NATIONAL_PAGE1_cli-adf_pp_map_us_sept.jpg)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.kofc.org/en/news/polls/poll\\_conscience-protection-abortion.html](http://www.kofc.org/en/news/polls/poll_conscience-protection-abortion.html)

We are also grateful for the fulfillment of your promise to redirect Federal Medicaid dollars from Planned Parenthood to Federally Qualified Health Centers for one year. It is an unfounded accusation that, without federal Medicaid reimbursement, Planned Parenthood will shut down or women will somehow not have access to care.

Fifty-one known audits of Planned Parenthood and their affiliates' billing procedures in several states have shown almost \$8.5 million in fraudulent Medicaid overpayments.<sup>3</sup> These federal audits have detailed Planned Parenthood's misuse of Medicaid reimbursement for pre-abortion examinations, abortion counseling visits, and other services performed in conjunction with abortion<sup>4</sup>.

No Planned Parenthood clinic is authorized to perform mammograms, contrary to the statements of Minority Leader Schumer (D-New York) and Planned Parenthood CEO Cecile Richards.<sup>5</sup> From 2009-2013, cancer screenings at Planned Parenthood declined by nearly 50%,<sup>6</sup> contraceptive services are down 20% since 2010,<sup>7</sup> and total services are down 14% since 2010.<sup>8</sup> Women are going elsewhere, and federal funding should follow.

We are grateful to the House and the Trump Administration's careful thought and effort in assuring any ObamaCare replacement is pro-life. We are also grateful for the acknowledgment that Planned Parenthood is wholly unfit for federal dollars. As this bill moves forward, we look forward to working with both houses of Congress and the Administration to assure these protections are retained.

Sincerely,

Penny Nance  
CEO and President  
Concerned Women for America LAC

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<sup>3</sup> <https://lozierinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/plannedparenthood-profit-no-matter-what.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://lozierinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/plannedparenthood-profit-no-matter-what.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfMQSA/mqsa.cfm>

<sup>6</sup> <https://oversight.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Planned-Parenthood-Chairman-Memo.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.sba-list.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/SBAList\\_Fact\\_Sheet\\_PP\\_2014\\_2015\\_AnnualReport.pdf](https://www.sba-list.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/SBAList_Fact_Sheet_PP_2014_2015_AnnualReport.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> [https://www.sba-list.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/SBAList\\_Fact\\_Sheet\\_PP\\_2014\\_2015\\_AnnualReport.pdf](https://www.sba-list.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/SBAList_Fact_Sheet_PP_2014_2015_AnnualReport.pdf)